

Soviet arms treaty breaches uncorrected, Reagan reports

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The Soviet Union has failed to correct or explain its violations of arms control agreements with the United States, President Reagan said yesterday in an overdue report to Congress on the infractions.

But the study, delayed by internal administration differences over how to interpret intelligence data, for the first time in three years contains no charges of major new Soviet violations.

The document, against the wishes of administration hard-liners, instead "reaffirms" findings that the Soviet Union has violated the 1972 ABM treaty, pacts banning chemical and biological weapons, and the unratified Threshold Test Ban Treaty.

Its release comes as U.S. and Soviet negotiators are making progress toward an agreement to eliminate medium-range missiles from Europe, in which the United States hopes to include stiff measures against cheating.

On the key topic of defenses against nuclear missiles, the report repeats earlier assertions that the Soviets "may be" preparing an anti-missile network to defend the entire Soviet Union, in violation of the anti-ballistic missile treaty.

"I guess it's just an administration decision to give the Soviets the benefit of the doubt on this issue," one administration official said yesterday.

The wording is important because some administration officials, chiefly in the Pentagon and its Defense Intelligence Agency, had argued that new intelligence called for a less ambiguous wording. They cited the discovery in 1986 of three new large phased-array radars, in addition to six known installations, and other components that could be part of a more sophisticated missile defense network.

The CIA and the State Department "wanted to fuzz it [the report's wording] up," the administration official said. "DIA wanted a harder statement."

Congress yesterday also received a classified version of the report. Required by law, it was due Dec. 1.

The report was delayed by "a need for full and frank discussion among government agencies" of non-compliance issues, a spokesman for the U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency said yesterday.

Meanwhile, arms control talks aimed at eliminating U.S. and Soviet medium-range missiles from Europe resumed in Geneva yesterday.

In Washington, the State Department announced that the United States, after consulting with five European allies, is ready to submit in Geneva specific measures to verify the pact. They could include on-site inspection of missile destruction and surprise visits to missile production facilities.

"Another year has passed and ... the Soviet Union has failed to correct its non-compliant activities" despite U.S. complaints, Mr. Reagan said in yesterday's report. "Neither have they provided explanations sufficient to alleviate our concerns on other compliance issues."

He expressed particular concern over the huge Soviet phased-array radar near Krasnoyarsk, which U.S. officials have judged to be a "clear" violation of the ABM treaty.

The Soviets have offered to dismantle the radar if the United States halts modernization of early warning radars in Greenland and Britain. Some newspaper accounts have indicated work on the Krasnoyarsk installation may have ceased.

But the radar "appeared to be completed externally in 1986," the report states.

The ABM treaty allows con-

struction of the devices on a nation's periphery, where they could be used for early detection of an enemy missile launch. However, it bars their placement in a nation's interior, such as at Krasnoyarsk, where the radars could be used for missile tracking and management of an anti-missile defense.

The report again charges the Soviets with maintaining an illegal biological and chemical weapon capability, citing continued activity at suspected Soviet research facilities and "reports that a Soviet BW [biological warfare] program may now include investigation of new classes of BW agents."

"We are particularly concerned because it [the Soviet program] may include advanced biological agents about which we have little knowledge and against which we have no defense," Mr. Reagan said.

Unlike in past years, the analysis makes little mention of the unratified SALT II agreement, which the Reagan administration, citing past Soviet violations, has said it will no longer observe.

"This is not to suggest that the significance of the Soviet violations has in any way diminished," the report says.

• *Jeremiah O'Leary contributed to this report.*